

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed August 29, 2007 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1, 3-7, 10-16, 18-22, and 25-30 are now pending in this application. Claims 1, 3-7, 10-16, 18-22, and 25-30 stand rejected.

Applicants note the objection to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a). By the above amendment, Applicants have amended Claims 3 and 18. Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendment overcomes the objection to the drawings or renders such objection moot. For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1, 3-7, 16, and 18-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully traversed. The Examiner alleges that Claims 1, 3-7, 16, and 18-22 are indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. By the above amendment, Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 16 to more distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 3-7 depend from Claim 1 and Claims 18-22 depend from Claim 16. Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendment overcomes the rejection and notification to that effect is solicited.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 112 rejections of Claims 1, 3-7, 16, and 18-22 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 3 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is respectfully traversed. The Examiner alleges that Claims 3 and 18 contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. By the above amendment, Applicants have amended Claims 3 and 18 to delete the recitation "wherein said vent trim further comprises a venting portion overlapping a portion of said cooktop." Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendment overcomes the rejection and notification to that effect is solicited.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 112 rejections of Claims 3 and 8 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1, 3-7, 16, and 18-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,653,219 to Taplan (hereinafter referred to as “Taplan ‘219”) is respectfully traversed.

Taplan ‘219 describes a drop-in cooktop (1) that includes a pan-shaped base (5) and a continuous glass-ceramic cook plate (2) including two atmospheric gas burners (3, 3’) mounted therein. The cooktop (1) also includes an air-inlet device (15) configured such that the primary air to the gas burner can be adjusted. The air-inlet device (15) includes an outer tube or curved channel (16) seated in a gap between boundary edges (18 and 20) and includes a lateral outer opening (22) formed therein. Notably, Taplan ‘219 does not describe or suggest an attachment portion overlapping a top surface of the cooktop.

Claim 1 recites an air inlet system for a gas cooking apparatus having at least one gas burner and a burner box around the at least one gas burner, wherein the air inlet system includes “a cooktop configured to cover said burner box and having at least one peripheral vent cut configured to vent outside air into the burner box to provide air for the at least one gas burner, said at least one peripheral vent cut defining a first opening through said cooktop; and a vent trim attached to said cooktop and covering said at least one peripheral vent cut, said vent trim comprising a surface with second openings raised above a top surface and said at least one peripheral vent cut of said cooktop, said vent trim facilitating isolating said second openings from spills on said cooktop, an attachment portion overlapping said top surface of said cooktop, and at least one clip overlapping a bottom surface of said cooktop, said vent trim surface defining an underlying cavity, wherein said second openings are configured to allow outside air to enter the burner box through said vent trim.”

Taplan ‘219 does not describe or suggest an air inlet system as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, Taplan ‘219 does not describe or suggest an attachment portion overlapping the top surface of the cooktop, as required by Applicants’ claimed invention. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Taplan ‘219 describes an air-inlet device that includes an outer tube or curved channel seated in a gap between the boundary edges defined within an opening in the cooktop.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be

patentable over Taplan '219.

Claims 3-7 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 3-7 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 3-7 are likewise patentable over Taplan '219.

Claim 16 recites a gas cooking apparatus including “at least one gas burner; a burner box for said at least one gas burner; a cooktop configured to cover said burner box and having at least one peripheral vent cut configured to vent outside air into said burner box to provide air for said at least one gas burner, said at least one peripheral vent cut defining a first opening through said cooktop; and a vent trim attached to said cooktop and covering said at least one peripheral vent cut, said vent trim comprising a surface with second openings raised above a top surface and said at least one peripheral vent cut of said cooktop, said vent trim facilitating isolating said second openings from spills on said cooktop, an attachment portion overlapping said top surface of said cooktop, and at least one clip overlapping a bottom surface of said cooktop, said vent trim surface defining an underlying cavity, wherein said second openings are configured to allow outside air to enter said burner box through said vent trim.”

Taplan '219 does not describe or suggest a gas cooking apparatus as recited in Claim 16. More specifically, Taplan '219 does not describe or suggest an attachment portion overlapping the top surface of the cooktop, as required by Applicants' claimed invention. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Taplan '219 describes an air-inlet device that includes an outer tube or curved channel seated in a gap between the boundary edges defined within an opening in the cooktop.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 16 is submitted to be patentable over Taplan '219.

Claims 18-22 depend from independent Claim 16. When the recitations of Claims 18-22 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 16, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 18-22 are likewise patentable over Taplan '219.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102(b) rejection of Claims 1, 3-7, 16, and 18-22 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 10-12, 14-15, 25-27, 29, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,807,962 to Taplan (hereinafter referred to as “Taplan ‘962”) is respectfully traversed.

Taplan ‘962 describes a glass-ceramic plate (1) for a cooking stove including apertures (2, 3, 4, 5, and 6) for mounting gas burners, operating elements, and component parts for venting, such as a metallic venting screen (24). In order to provide both a protection against contact and a seal, a layer or body of silicone mass of adequate temperature stability (8) is configured in the peripheral portion of the apertures (2-6). The silicone mass (8) is employed in such a way that the layer does not glue the component-part (i.e., venting screen (24)) to the plate and protects the adjacent portion of the glass-ceramic top from fractures during installation of and during removal of the associated component part. Notably, Taplan ‘962 does not describe or suggest an attachment portion having a lip extending substantially along a length of the cover member, wherein the lip engages the bottom face of the cooktop.

Claim 10 recites an air inlet system for a gas cooking apparatus having at least one gas burner and a burner box around the at least one gas burner, wherein the air inlet system includes “a cooktop configured to cover the burner box and having at least one peripheral vent cut configured to vent outside air into the burner box to provide air for the at least one gas burner; and an elongated cover member attached to a top face and a bottom face of said cooktop and covering said at least one peripheral vent cut, said cover member having a surface with openings configured to allow outside air to enter said at least one peripheral vent cut through said cover member, said cover member including a surface raised above said cooktop and said at least one peripheral vent cut, said cover member facilitating isolating said openings from spills on said cooktop, said surface defining an underlying cavity, said cover member comprising at least one tab said top face, and said cover member comprising an attachment portion having a lip extending substantially along a length of said cover member, said lip engaging said bottom face.”

Taplan ‘962 does not describe or suggest an air inlet system for a gas cooking apparatus as recited in Claim 10. More specifically, Taplan ‘962 does not describe nor suggest an elongated cover member attached to a top face and a bottom face of a cooktop. Further, Taplan ‘962 does not describe or suggest an attachment portion having a lip extending substantially along a length of the cover member, wherein the lip engages the bottom face of the cooktop, as required by Applicants’ claimed invention. In contrast to the

present invention, Taplan '962 merely describes a glass-ceramic plate that includes apertures for mounting component parts within the glass-ceramic plate. A silicone layer is configured in the peripheral portions of the apertures and is employed in such a way that the layer does not glue the component-part to the plate and protects adjacent portions of the glass-ceramic top against fractures during installation or removal of the component-parts.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 10 is submitted to be patentable over Taplan '962.

Claims 11-12 and 14-15 depend from independent Claim 10. When the recitations of Claims 11-12 and 14-15 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 10, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 11-12 and 14-15 are likewise patentable over Taplan '962.

Claim 25 recites a gas cooking apparatus including "at least one gas burner; a burner box for said at least one gas burner; a sealed cooktop configured to cover said burner box and having at least one peripheral vent cut configured to vent outside air into said burner box to provide air for said gas burner; and an elongated cover member attached to a top face and a bottom face of said cooktop and covering said at least one peripheral vent cut, said cover member having a surface with openings configured to allow outside air to enter said at least one peripheral vent cut through said cover member, said cover member including a surface raised above said cooktop and said at least one peripheral vent cut, said cover member facilitating isolating said openings from spills on said cooktop, said surface defining an underlying cavity, said cover member comprising at least one tab said top face, and said cover member comprising an attachment portion having a lip extending substantially along a length of said cover member, said lip engaging said bottom face."

Taplan '962 does not describe or suggest a gas cooking apparatus as recited in Claim 25. More specifically, Taplan '962 does not describe or suggest an elongated cover member attached to a top face and a bottom face of a cooktop. Further, Taplan '962 does not describe or suggest an attachment portion having a lip extending substantially along a length of the cover member, wherein the lip engages the bottom face of the cooktop, as required by Applicants' claimed invention. In contrast to the present invention, Taplan '962 merely describes a glass-ceramic plate that includes apertures for mounting component parts within the glass-ceramic plate. A silicone layer is configured in the peripheral portions of the

apertures and is employed in such a way that the layer does not glue the component-part to the plate and protects adjacent portions of the glass-ceramic top against fractures during installation or removal of the component-parts.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 25 is submitted to be patentable over Taplan '962.

Claims 26-27, 29, and 30 depend from independent Claim 25. When the recitations of Claims 26-27, 29, and 30 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 25, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 26-27, 29, and 30 are likewise patentable over Taplan '962.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102(e) rejection of Claims 10-12, 14-15, 25-27, 29, and 30 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 13 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taplan '962 is respectfully traversed.

Claim 13 depends from independent Claim 10, which recites an air inlet system for a gas cooking apparatus having at least one gas burner and a burner box around the at least one gas burner, wherein the air inlet system includes "a cooktop configured to cover the burner box and having at least one peripheral vent cut configured to vent outside air into the burner box to provide air for the at least one gas burner; and an elongated cover member attached to a top face and a bottom face of said cooktop and covering said at least one peripheral vent cut, said cover member having a surface with openings configured to allow outside air to enter said at least one peripheral vent cut through said cover member, said cover member including a surface raised above said cooktop and said at least one peripheral vent cut, said cover member facilitating isolating said openings from spills on said cooktop, said surface defining an underlying cavity, said cover member comprising at least one tab engaging said top face, and said cover member comprising an attachment portion having a lip extending substantially along a length of said cover member, said lip engaging said bottom face."

As set forth above, Taplan '962 does not describe or suggest an air inlet system for a gas cooking apparatus as recited in Claim 10. More specifically, Taplan '962 does not describe or suggest an elongated cover member attached to a top face and a bottom face of a cooktop. Further, Taplan '962 does not describe or suggest an attachment portion having a

lip extending substantially along a length of the cover member, wherein the lip engages the bottom face of the cooktop, as required by Applicants' claimed invention. In contrast to the present invention, Taplan '962 merely describes a glass-ceramic plate that includes apertures for mounting component parts within the glass-ceramic plate. A silicone layer is configured in the peripheral portions of the apertures and is employed in such a way that the layer does not glue the component-part to the plate and protects adjacent portions of the glass-ceramic top against fractures during installation or removal of the component-parts.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is patentable over Taplan '962. Claim 13 depends from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claim 13 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 13 is likewise patentable over Taplan '962.

Claim 28 depends from independent Claim 25, which recites a gas cooking apparatus including "at least one gas burner; a burner box for said at least one gas burner; a sealed cooktop configured to cover said burner box and having at least one peripheral vent cut configured to vent outside air into said burner box to provide air for said gas burner; and an elongated cover member attached to a top face and a bottom face of said cooktop and covering said at least one peripheral vent cut, said cover member having a surface with openings configured to allow outside air to enter said at least one peripheral vent cut through said cover member, said cover member including a surface raised above said cooktop and said at least one peripheral vent cut, said cover member facilitating isolating said openings from spills on said cooktop, said surface defining an underlying cavity, said cover member comprising at least one tab extending within said cavity to mount said cover member on said top face, said tab engaging a top surface of said top face, and said cover member comprising an attachment portion having a lip extending substantially along a length of said cover member to mount said cover member to said bottom face, said lip engaging a bottom surface of said bottom face."

As set forth above, Taplan '962 does not describe or suggest a gas cooking apparatus as recited in Claim 25. More specifically, Taplan '962 does not describe or suggest an elongated cover member attached to a top face and a bottom face of a cooktop. Further, Taplan '962 does not describe or suggest an attachment portion having a lip extending substantially along a length of the cover member to mount the cover member to the bottom face, wherein the lip engages a bottom surface of the bottom face, as required by Applicants'

claimed invention. In contrast to the present invention, Taplan '962 merely describes a glass-ceramic plate that includes apertures for mounting component parts within the glass-ceramic plate. A silicone layer is configured in the peripheral portions of the apertures and is employed in such a way that the layer does not glue the component-part to the plate and protects adjacent portions of the glass-ceramic top against fractures during installation or removal of the component-parts.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 25 is patentable over Taplan '962. Claim 28 depends from independent Claim 25. When the recitations of Claim 28 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 25, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 28 is likewise patentable over Taplan '962.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 13 and 28 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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